



# Thomas Russell Infants' School

'Our children blossom through nurture & challenge'

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## Newsletter No.4 October 4<sup>th</sup> 2013

Dear Parents/Carers

We have had another busy week in school, with a few autumn cold bugs going around so keep warm and as germ free as possible. If your child is going to be away from school with illness please can we remind you to phone school as soon as possible on the morning of the absence. The office is manned by an answer machine until 8.30am when the office staff arrive. We would rather receive an answer machine message than none at all, thank you.

### 'Our Children Blossom Through Nurture and Challenge'

Our school motto is an integral part of school life and is hopefully evident in daily life and our general school ethos. We have been talking about examples of nurture and challenge within school in recent assemblies where the children enjoy sharing examples with the rest of the school.

### Well done Year 2

Thank you and well done to all year 2 children who had a fantastic trip to Tamworth Castle on Tuesday as part of their topic on castles. The staff at the castle who worked with the children all day commented on how well behaved, polite and enthusiastic the children were. Our school staff were also very impressed and proud of the children, who were a real credit to the school. Well done children.

### Reception parents coffee morning

This is from 9am till 10am on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October for any relative of a reception child. You are invited to come along and hear them sing whilst enjoying a cake and a coffee. All proceeds will go to the PTA. The children will be singing at 9.20am.

### Reception Parents curriculum Evening

This was held this week, thank you to the 36 parents who attended. Mini workshops were held for reading, handwriting, phonics and maths as well as an overview of the Early Learning Goals in all areas. If you were unable to attend, packs of information will have been sent home with your child already. If you are a parent of a child in year 1 or 2 please see the school website for ways to help your child at home.

### Outstanding School of Reading

We are passionate about reading here at Thomas Russell Infants', both how we teach our children to read and reading for pleasure. We recently asked for photos to be sent in of your



children reading at home with others and although the response was small all those who have sent their photos in are displayed in the main entrance area. We gave 3 randomly chosen winners a £5 book token for joining in this activity and there will be many more events like this to take part in. Next week you will be receiving our timetable of events we will be holding throughout the year to develop and encourage reading in our school and in your homes, we hope you come and join us and any suggestions would be very welcome to ensure we make reading something our children choose and enjoy doing throughout their lives.

A quote from some recent national research claims that: 'Children whose parents are actively involved in their learning are more enthusiastic and successful learners. Attainment can increase by 15%, no matter what the social background of the family'. In today's home school dairies is a short questionnaire, we need to know your thoughts so we can plan well for the year ahead, many thanks.

This week's reading recommendations are:

'Mulberry and the Summer Show' by Che Golden for ages 7+

'Dinosaur Cove Cretaceous 5', by Rex Stone for ages 5+

A good website for free parent support [www.oxfordowl.co.uk](http://www.oxfordowl.co.uk)

#### Bicycles and Scooters

Can we remind parents and children to leave bicycles and scooters under the cover provided which is situated just through the main gates and not to ride them around school to their classroom. We thank you for your support in this matter.

#### PTA School calendar 2014

You will all have had a letter this week about the school calendar, please ensure your child's props are in school by Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October for the photo shoot, thank you.

#### Other PTA events

The 50/50 club still have numbers remaining - you have to be in it to win it!

Please remember to order your spring plants through Plant CD Bell, details have already been sent home, please ask at the office if you require a new order form.

Tickets are still available for the Boden clothes Party on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October.

#### Harvest Festival

On Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October at 9.15am in the hall, all the children will take part in the Harvest Assembly. We will be having a visiting speaker and all classes will be contributing to the assembly. We ask that harvest donations are brought to school, items such as fruit, vegetables and packets are ideal. There will be a food sale to parents after school and all proceeds will go to an orphanage in Kenya which Mrs Lawrie has links to. Our Year 2 children will also take a few hampers to some elderly residents in the village. Many thanks in advance for your support.

Can we ask no more than 2 adults per child come to the assembly and that all small toddlers sit on adults knees if numbers are high. As all 170 children in school are taking part we do have to follow our safety measures and number capacity in the hall, thank you for your understanding.



### Open day for prospective parents

Please can you all spread the word that we are open for parents of children who are due to start school in September 2014, on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October between 9.30 and 11.30am and 1.30 and 3.00pm.

### Achievements

Each week children are given team points for their efforts in and around school, these are added up by year 2 monitors every Monday morning and the winning team from the previous week receive a sticker on their hall chart and great applause. We thought it would be nice to tell you the winning team each week so you can talk to your child about the team points they may have received.

So far robins have won 3 weeks and swans 1 week. The winning team at half term will all receive an in school treat!!

### Workers of the week

Our well deserving children for 'Worker of the Week' this week are:

2K - Amy Chuck for a fantastic story start

2M - Leni Sherratt for fantastic number work

1S - Mica Chambers for excellent sketching skills

1W - Gregory Conyers-Davies for using knowledge of number bonds to 10 to find number bonds to 20

RR - Isobel Harmon for excellent reading (to be presented next week)

RL - Bella Richards for being so kind and caring to all her friends

Well done to all our children.

Wishing you a pleasant weekend

Regards

Mrs Farmer & Mrs Burton

